From the Desk of the Executive Director

As the new academic year unfolds, the Field Center is immersed in a variety of activities centered around the theme of education.

We are pleased to welcome back Dr. Richard Gelles, founding Faculty Director of the Field Center, in the new role of Managing Faculty Director.

From enhancing opportunities for higher education for foster youth and training the next generation of child welfare leaders through our Multidisciplinary Student Training Institute, to providing educational opportunities for professionals and educating the community through our research and advocacy work, the Field Center continues to advance scholarship in the field of child welfare.

We encourage you to take advantage of learning opportunities with the Field Center and to partner with us as we work to improve the lives of children and youth involved with the child welfare system.

Debra Schilling Wolfe
Executive Director
The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice and Research

SAVE THE DATE!

One Child, Many Hands
The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research
June 5 - 7, 2019

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS JUST RELEASED

A Call for Presentations has just been issued. Proposed presentations are solicited that advance the field of child welfare from the perspective of a variety of disciplines. Information can be found on the conference website at onechildmanyhands.org and submission materials may be accessed directly by clicking here. Proposals must include a cover sheet, maximum 25-word abstract, three learning objectives, and maximum 500-word description. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2018.

The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice and Research will hold its biennial One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare in Philadelphia, June 5 - 7, 2019 at the beautiful and historic University of Pennsylvania Law School. The multi-day conference will consist of three days of learning, featuring compelling Keynote Speakers, cutting-edge Plenary Panels, a variety of Workshops presented by national and international experts, closing with a Networking Luncheon.

FIELD CENTER WELCOMES DR. RICHARD GELLES BACK AS MANAGING FACULTY DIRECTOR

Richard J. Gelles, PhD, has returned to the Field Center in the new role as Managing Faculty Director. A prolific scholar in the child welfare field, Dr. Gelles is the Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence and former Dean of the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Social Policy & Practice. He was the Field Center’s founding co-faculty director when it launched in 1999 and is a stalwart, driving figure in the mission to enhance and ensure the well-being of at-risk children.

All Family Separations Are Not the Same: Reflections on the Border Crisis

By Richard J. Gelles, PhD, Managing Faculty Director

The United States government policy of separating undocumented children from their parents at the southern border was, and remains, both egregious and a form of government child maltreatment. Thousands of children were separated at the onset of the Department of Justice’s new “zero tolerance” policy. Weeks after a federal court ordered the government to re-unite children with their caregivers, hundreds of children remain separated and detained in facilities across the U.S.

Given my experience in the child welfare field, I was not entirely surprised that in the wake of the government’s actions to separate children from parents, other parent’s rights advocates would piggyback their concern about child separation onto the issue of undocumented children. Read more >
FIELD CENTER PRESENTS RESEARCH AT INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABUSE CONFERENCE

The Field Center was selected to present its research on "Findings From a Multi-city Study of Human Trafficking Prevalence and Child Welfare Risk Factors Among Homeless Youth," at the ISPCAN XIII International Congress on Child Abuse & Neglect in Prague, Czech Republic. Debra Schilling Wolfe and Dr. Johanna Greeson, co-Principal Investigators on this comprehensive research study, travelled to Prague in the Czech Republic to share the Field Center's groundbreaking work, part of the largest study to date on the prevalence of trafficking among homeless youth and the first to develop and implement a survey to examine child welfare risk factors for child sex trafficking.

ISPAN, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, was founded in 1977 by Henry Kempe and is the only international non-profit organization that brings together professionals that work toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Field Center will be generously matched to support the ISPCAN’s critical work in preventing and combating human trafficking.

The ISPCAN Conference is the premier event for professionals that work toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

ISPCAN, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, was founded in 1977 by Henry Kempe and is the only international non-profit organization that brings together professionals that work toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

To read the Field Center's research study, click here.

CURRENT LEGISLATION: TUITION WAIVERS FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN PA

Pennsylvania is on the cusp of joining 28 other states in removing a significant barrier for foster youth to attend college: paying for college tuition. Following its introduction in August 2017, The Fostering Independence Through Education Act (HB 1745) passed the Pennsylvania House in June by a unanimous vote (194-0) and currently sits in the Senate Education Committee. To be enacted into law, this current legislative session, this bill must be voted out of committee and passed by the full Senate before the legislature adjourns in time for the current mid-term elections.

The Fostering Independence Through Education Act creates a tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate degrees at public post-secondary educational institutions for Pennsylvania foster youth who meet certain eligibility criteria. The waiver would make up the difference for children for whom all federal and state grants have been exhausted at any Pennsylvania community college, university within the State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), or a state-affiliated institution, including Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University, and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. Read more.

To view our infographic, “5 Things PA Residents Should Know About HB 1745,” click here.

FIELD CENTER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO ADVISORY BOARD

Ann N. Reese is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Adoption Policy, whose goal is to remove legal and policy barriers to adoption. Mrs. Reese spent over 25 years in a career in finance. Formerly the CFO of DTCC, she also worked at Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Mobil Oil, Union Carbide, and Bankers Trust. Mrs. Reese has an MBA from New York University and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a director of DTCC, Genesee & Wyoming, and Sears Holdings. Mrs. Reese is a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, where she is a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the Audit Committee. She is also President of Penn Alumni and a member of the Board of Overseers of the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) at Penn.

Nadeem A. Bezar is a partner at Kline & Specter. Mr. Bezar joined the firm after gaining more than 20 years of experience with another Philadelphia firm at which he was a name partner, Koblzy, Gordon, Robin, Shore & Bezar. His practice concentrates on medical negligence, catastrophic personal injury, and Title IX violations on college and university campuses. He is known for his expertise in the courtroom. Mr. Bezar also has built a reputation for the genuine empathy he holds for his clients.

Mr. Bezar earned his undergraduate degree from Bates College, where he was on the varsity baseball team. He received a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Massachusetts and his law degree from the Temple University Beasley School of Law. He is on the executive committee of the Temple Law Alumni Association and recently received the TLAU Diversity Leadership Award. Mr. Bezar is on the Board of Directors of the Juvenile Law Center and the Temple Law Alumni Association.
actively recruiting prospective foster care system are on trial. In the ongoing legal battle between Catholic Social Services and the City of Philadelphia, protections for LGBTQ Foster Parents in Court. This is Why Advocates are Supporting Generocity LGBQT Foster Parents in Court.
Protecting Children, Preserving Dreams

The Field Center is a collaboration of

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Founding Benefactors: Joseph and Marie Field

Click the link below to learn more about The Field Center

www.fieldcenteratpenn.org

To receive more information about Field Center work, trainings, and events please click HERE.